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this place they make regular visits to it. Thus the place used by the children for this purpose appears very insanitary. Furthermore, children are in this way exposed to the danger of attack from worms of various kinds. 863

Weaning

There are very few cases where children are not weaned against their will. The maximum period of suckling is determined by the date of the following pregnancy. Thus if the mother is not again pregnant a child is suckled for as long as it wishes. It is considered that once a mother is expecting another child the milk in her breasts naturally belongs to the coming baby and would be poisonous to the older child. It is also believed that children who are suckled when their mothers are pregnant waste away and eventually die if the feeding is not stopped. 862

Methods of weaning. Methods of weaning do not vary much between different mothers. First, the child may be persuaded that the milk is 'pus', and as such should not be taken. Certain children are deliberately disgusted and are weaned immediately in this way.

The second method involves smearing with the bitter aloe sap, or a substance which irritates the mouth, like pepper. Much pain is inflicted on children weaned in this manner, and no doubt psychological studies of these children would bring to light the tremendous effects created by different methods of weaning. [824]

Another method used is that of discouragement through fright. A mother may play on the sensory nerves of the child's face at night by touching it with grass, telling the nursing child that the grass is a caterpillar. As children are afraid of caterpillars this greatly upsets them, and the mother succeeds in severing the last physiological connection between herself and her [825]

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862 child. Having in the beginning created the child's liking for her breasts she must resort to crude methods to shift the child's interest to other sources. Hence weaning is not only a break in the time-honoured connection between mother and child, but also a significant psychological factor in the child's development. A closer analytical study of children would help to show how far the fears established during infancy influence their later emotional life.

Parent-child Relationship

855 593 The relationship between parents and children from the age of two to six is principally determined by two factors: discipline and the provision of food. Parents feel that children of both sexes tend to prefer their mother partly because of her frequent contact with them, and even more because their food in its ready form is under her control.

In feeding children a mother's sympathies often prevent her from restricting their food, but the reverse situation may exist and sometimes we find a father who loves his child so much that he will give it all the food it desires. If the father is more severe than the mother in this respect the child naturally prefers the mother, and, similarly, a child will prefer a father who feeds it to a mother who restricts its food.

855 593 603 A further complication arises when the grandparents come into the matter. So delicately balanced is this relationship depending on food and discipline that the slightest difference is sufficient to draw the child towards those who favour it. This means that if the grandparents offer it better conditions, the child will stay with them most of the time. Hence, when I was once talking to a couple I know, I was informed that their daughter would not remain with them but preferred her grand-